

Illuminations: Resources for Teaching Math

Website: <http://illuminations.nctm.org>

Description

This website offers teachers a variety of lesson plans, interactive activities and links to use throughout the semester. It is highly organized and sorts the lessons and interactives by grade levels (pre-kindergarten to grade 2, grades 3 to 5, grades 6 to 8 and grades 9 to 12) and by the common core math strands (number and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data analysis & probability).

With each lesson plan there is:

- A brief description;
- Instructional plan;
- Objectives & Standards for each grade;
- Materials required for the lesson
- Assessments & Extensions – how you can assess your students and how you can extend the lesson
- Questions & Reflections – questions to ask the students and questions to ask yourself; and
- Related Resources (if any exist).

With each interactive there is:

- A brief description;
- Instructions on how to use the interactive;
- Exploration – how you can use the activity with other data/information; and
- Related resources (if any exist).

How to Use the Resource

The easiest way to navigate your way through this website is to go to the search bar located on the right hand side of the screen. From there you can:

- Type in keywords if you know what you are looking for

Or

- From the menus provided:
 - Choose whether you are looking for a lesson or an interactive activity;
 - Choose the grade that you are looking for; and
 - Choose the strand that you are looking for.

Why This Resource is Useful

- **Grade Specific Lesson Plans** – The lesson plans are divided by grade and common core math strand. Each lesson can be printed and/or downloaded for personal use. The lesson plans tell you how to implement the lesson as well as how to assess your students, what questions you can ask your students as well as yourself for reflection.
- **Interactive Activities** – This is a useful way to bring technology into the classroom and have students engaged and interested in the lesson. There are step-by-step instructions and guidelines on how to use the interactive.
- **Brain Teasers** – Under the **Lessons** heading, select **Brain Teasers**. There are many pages of brain teasers that you can use as a Minds On activity with your class, with solutions.